hope the large number of votes we saw in favor of cloture this morning continues.

We have a big economy, which means we have big energy needs. Yes, we want the conservation we put into law a year ago. We want this renaissance of nuclear power. We want clean coal with carbon recaptured. We want renewable power, we want LNG from overseas, and we want other things. We want more refining capacity. But supply is a part of the picture, and the legislation we are debating today is the most obvious example of increasing supply.

I am pleased to be a cosponsor of this legislation. I am delighted with the way the leadership has presented it to the Senate. It will help the country. I hope the blue-collar workers, the farmers, and the homeowners are listening because this debate and this vote will be about them and their future and their pocketbooks.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois is recognized.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I thought my colleague from the great State of Tennessee, Senator ALEXANDER, made an excellent statement. Although I might disagree with some part of it, I really believe he is speaking to this issue in good terms. I was heartened by the fact that the first thing he said about energy was conservation. I believe that is a critical starting place.

I am going to give the Senator from Tennessee four numbers—not for the lottery, for the Powerball or anything, but four numbers to think about. The numbers are 3, 25, 4, and 3 again. Here is what they signify.

We have within our command and control in the United States of America 3 percent of the energy reserves of the world—3 percent. Everything we could possibly turn to and explore and bring out of the Earth, whether offshore or in the continental United States, is 3 percent.

Twenty-five: We consume 25 percent of the world's energy. It is clear that we cannot drill our way into energy independence. It just does not work. The numbers do not come together.

The next number is 4. Four represents the number of months of natural gas which we hope we can bring out of this offshore drilling for the United States—a 4-month supply of natural gas for our country.

The final number, 3, represents a 3-month supply of the oil our country consumes.

So as important as exploration is and finding new sources, you had the right starting point. You hit the nail on the head. We cannot drill our way out of energy dependence, looking at the 3 percent that we have, the 25 percent we consume, and we cannot rely on even offshore drilling to give us more than just a respite from the demands we are going to face in the future, the competition we face around the world.

So my feeling—and I think the feeling of many on both sides of the aisle—is what we should look for is environmentally responsible exploration.

I have made no secret of the fact that I think the notion of drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is a terrible idea. It has been rejected by Congress year after year. It is an act of environmental desperation that we would go to a wilderness area—a wildlife refuge area, I should say to be more specific—and say that after a few years, we have to start drilling there because there is no other place for America to go in order to give us confidence we will have energy sources in the future. So I haven't hidden my feelings about that particular project, but I am open to the suggestion that this may work.

I have not made a final commitment on the bill pending before us. I join with my colleagues in moving it forward. Let's move this debate forward. Let's bring this issue to the floor.

A couple of the things mentioned by the Senator from Tennessee are intriguing. Nuclear power—I am not sure nationally how much electricity is generated by nuclear power. It may be a third, it may be a little more.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, if the——

Mr. DURBIN. I am happy to yield to the Senator from Tennessee.

Mr. ALEXANDER. The answer is 20 percent of all our electricity in the United States and 70 percent of our carbon-free electricity is produced by nuclear power.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I thank the Senator from Tennessee. In my home State of Illinois, the number is 50 percent. Fifty percent of our electricity is generated by nuclear power. So for those who say: Get rid of it tomorrow, they better be ready to sit in darkness for a while in my State of Illinois if that is their option.

But I hope the Senator from Tennessee feels as I do, that the future of nuclear power is wedded to two issues we have to deal with forthrightly: what are we going to do with the nuclear waste that is likely to threaten us in some form or another for generations to come, for hundreds, if not thousands, of years; and secondly, how do we promote nuclear power without promoting the production of nuclear weapons?

We are facing that issue everywhere—in North Korea, in Iran. As we look at the world, we worry that countries moving toward nuclear power are, in fact, also creating an option for the production of nuclear weapons, which would make the world perhaps more self-sufficient when it came to electricity but in a more dangerous state if it led to nuclear proliferation.

Those are the two challenges with nuclear power as I see them.

I believe—maybe I am not being realistic here, but I believe they can be addressed and they should be addressed. If we address them in a responsible fashion, the day may come—and I hope it does—when we can say that the spent nuclear fuel rods coming out of the nuclear powerplants are no longer a threat to the health and safety of America and that the production of nuclear power is not an invitation to produce nuclear weapons. Those are two things I think we have to face head-on.

I am lured by the notion that this is carbon-free power—electricity—having seen a production of a documentary by a gentleman from Tennessee by the name of Gore. Al Gore's documentary ''An Inconvenient Truth'' was an unsettling experience as he laid out in an hour and a half or so, I thought with real clarity and precision, the challenge of global warming and what will happen if we continue to add carbon dioxide to the atmosphere, increasing greenhouse gases and global warming, watching climate change, and all of the things that are likely to occur. It is a challenge to all of us. So I salute the Senator from Tennessee because there are many things he said with which I agree.

I am going to look at this bill carefully. I am troubled; I think the allocation of money to the States is very generous. It is a departure from where we have been in the past for offshore drilling to this extent, this far away from the coast. But I am going to look at it carefully and honestly to see if it is the right approach before I make a final decision. But I thank him for his statement on the floor here this evening relative to energy, and there is probably more that brings us together than divides us on this important issue.

(The remarks of Mr. DURBIN pertaining to the introduction of S. 3744 are located in today's RECORD under ''Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.'')

Mr. DURBIN. I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BENNETT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. DEMINT). Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. BENNETT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there be a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TAHOE RIM TRAIL ASSOCIATION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the 25th anniversary of the Tahoe Rim Trail Association—an organization of volunteers that came

together to build one of the world's premier trails—the Tahoe Rim Trail. This Saturday, the association will hold a Silver Anniversary Celebration to honor this occasion, and I am pleased to acknowledge their efforts here today.

The Tahoe Rim Trail Association is a successful public-private partnership that was founded in 1981. The original idea was to bring together community leaders, volunteers, and government agencies such as the Forest Service and the Nevada Division of State Parks to establish a trail around the Lake Tahoe Basin. Working hand-in-hand, volunteers created the incredible 165-mile trail that now exists around Lake Tahoe, allowing visitors a new way to experience one of the most magnificent places in America.

Visitors to the Tahoe Rim Trail are struck by the incredible diversity of the landscape and the wealth of wildlife. From the wildflowers of our alpine meadows to the soaring mountain peaks of the Sierra Nevada, the Tahoe Rim Trail offers something for everyone. Visitors to the trail enjoy a diverse range of opportunities from hiking and backpacking to horseback riding and mountain biking. Portions of the trail are also handicapped accessible so that everyone may enjoy this important piece of our State's rich natural heritage.

Although the trail is now complete, the Tahoe Rim Trail Association continues to educate visitors about the trail. Every Tuesday and Saturday during the summer months, the association organizes a group of volunteers to maintain and enhance the trail. These important efforts and community partnerships ensure that Nevadans, Californians, and people from around the world will be able to enjoy the beauty of the Lake Tahoe Basin for generations to come.

I am pleased to recognize the 25th anniversary of the Tahoe Rim Trail Association, and I hope that all of my colleagues will have the opportunity to visit this incredible part of Nevada.

16TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, today, July 26, marks the 16th anniversary of the signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

On this 16th anniversary, we celebrate one of the great, landmark civil rights laws of the 20th century—a long-overdue emancipation proclamation for people with disabilities.

We also celebrate the men and women, from all across America, whose daily acts of protest and persistence and courage moved this law forward to passage 16 years ago.

We celebrate some 50 million Americans with disabilities, who now begin each day with the right to equal opportunity, full participation, independent living, and economic self-sufficiency.

That is the triumph we celebrate today.

That is the spirit that made the Americans with Disabilities Act possible.

And that is the promise that will continue to move this country and the disability community forward.

Our society is so dynamic and so rapidly changing, we are often oblivious to quiet revolutions taking place in our midst. One such a revolution has been unfolding since the Americans with Disabilities Act became law 16 years ago.

How soon we forget that, prior to the ADA, Americans with disabilities routinely faced prejudice, discrimination, and exclusion—not to mention physical barriers to movement and access in their everyday lives. People with disabilities faced blatant discrimination in the workplace. They were often denied employment, no matter how well qualified they were. People in wheelchairs faced a nearly impossible obstacle course of curbs, stairs, and narrow doors.

One of those courageous people who fought for passage of the ADA was a young Iowan with severe cerebral palsy named Danette Crawford. I remember vividly when I first met Danette in 1990, when I was making the final push to get ADA through Congress. She was just 14 and one of the brightest persons I had ever met. I talked to her about what ADA would mean to her in terms of educational and job opportunities—ensuring that she would not be discriminated against in the workplace.

She listened to all this, and in her wonderful way, she said: ''That's very nice, very important, Senator. But, you know, all I really want to do is just be able to go out and buy a pair of shoes just like anybody else.'' And, of course, she was right. That is exactly what the ADA is all about.

The reach—the triumph—of the ADA revolution is all around us. It has become part of America. In May, I attended a convention in downtown Washington of several hundred disability rights advocates, many with severe impairments. They arrived on trains and airplanes built to accommodate people in wheelchairs. They came to the hotel on Metro and in regular busses, all seamlessly accessible by wheelchair. They navigated city streets equipped with curb cuts and ramps. The hotel where the convention took place was equipped in countless ways to accommodate people with disabilities. A woman on the dais translated the speeches into sign language so that people with hearing disabilities could be full participants.

For those of us who are able-bodied, these many changes are all but invisible. For a person who uses a wheelchair, they are transforming and liberating. So are provisions in the ADA outlawing discrimination against qualified individuals with disabilities in the workplace and requiring employers to provide ''reasonable accommodations.''

Just as important, the ADA has changed attitudes. It used to be perfectly acceptable to treat people with disabilities as second-class citizens, to exclude and marginalize them. I remember my brother, Frank, who was deaf. Frank was the real inspiration behind all of my work in the Senate on the Americans with Disabilities Act. He passed away 6 years ago, a month before the 10th anniversary of ADA. He always said that he was sorry that the ADA was not there for him when he was growing up but that he was very happy that the ADA is here now for young people so they can have a better future.

Frank lost his hearing at an early age. Then he was taken from his home, his family and his community and sent across the State to the Iowa State School for the Deaf. People often referred to it as the school for the ''deaf and dumb.'' Yes, that is the insensitive way that people used to talk. I remember my brother telling me, ''I may be deaf, but I am not dumb.''

While at school, Frank was told he could be one of three things: a cobbler, a printer's assistant, or a baker. He said he didn't want to be any one of those things. They said: OK, you are going to be a baker. So after he got out of school, Frank became a baker. But that is not what he wanted to do. Frank stubbornly refused to accept the biases and stereotypes that society tried to impose on him. He fought for—and won—a life of dignity.

But I remember how difficult everyday tasks were for him. For example, I remember, as a young boy, going with my older brother Frank to a store. The salesperson, when she found out that Frank was deaf, looked through him like he was invisible and turned to me to ask me what he wanted. I remember when he wanted to get a driver's license, he was told that ''deaf people don't drive.'' So the deck was stacked against Frank in a thousand ways, strictly because he was a person with a disability.

I remember when my brother finally found a job to his liking. He got a job at a manufacturing plant in Des Moines—a good job at Delavan Corporation. Mr. Delavan decided he wanted to hire people with disabilities, and so my brother went to work there. It was a great job. He became a drill press operator making nozzles for jet engines. He took enormous pride in his work.

Later on, when I was in the Navy, I remember coming home on leave for Christmas. I was unmarried at the time, as was Frank. So I went with him to the company where he worked, which was putting on a Christmas dinner. I didn't expect anything special. But it turned out that they were honoring Frank that night because in 10 years at Delevan, he had not missed a single day of work and hadn't been late once.

That is characteristic of how hard-working and dedicated people with disabilities are when they are given a